

Stark County Weed News

Diane Comments...

After a beautiful winter and a wonderful spring, we are planning our 2016 weed season. I am so pleased to tell you that our four chemical applicators are returning and we are adding two more chemical applicators to our team. This will increase our treatment coverage throughout the county. Kaye Jessen is our Administrative Assistant (she adds many years of experience to our team!)

This year we will be adding dye to our sales list. Using dye while applying chemical reduces your cost by preventing “double treatment” and also insures that you did not “skip” an area. It is an inexpensive addition to your chemical treatment program. Staff will be available to discuss proper use during cost-share sales.

Please call us for weed identification, chemical usage issues and all other weed issues. Have a wonderful summer!

Bits ‘n Pieces

- Call the office if you wish to be notified about the flea beetle field day
- Please call the office if you need an application for the LAP—ask for Kaye
- During distribution we will be closed from 11:30-12:15 for lunch — no chemical dispersed during this time
- Shop phone number, only on distribution days, is **456-7636**

“Each person shall do all things necessary and proper to control the spread of noxious weeds.”

North Dakota
Century Code
Chapter 4.1-47-
02

Landowner Assistance Program and Distribution

The LAP (cost-share of herbicides) will be conducted much the same as it was the last couple of years. Distribution will be held on selected Wednesdays throughout the summer. Select the date that works for you. Applications will be available at the office or mailed upon request. **Please return them to the office before you pick up your chemical.**

Maps will be due before distribution. No maps, no chemical. Maps will **not** be sent home on the day of chemical pickup.

This pertains mostly to new customers. By returning your application before distribution date, we have a chance to check that all your maps are on file. If they aren't, copies will be made and you can mark them at distribution.

Distribution is at the shop, behind the county road department shop. The shop phone number is 456-7636 but should only be used on distribution days. **Please do not call 456-7665, the office number.** Hours for distribution are 8:30-11:30 and 12:15-2:15. We will

be closed 45 minutes for lunch so please plan accordingly.

Tordon is a restricted use product and will require certification to buy and/or apply. If you have someone else pick up your Tordon you will need to complete an authorization form and return it to the office with your application. Tordon will not be released without certification or the authorization form completed. Forms are included with applications.

Wholesale will be available at all distribution days.

Inside this issue:

Invasive Watch—Black Henbane	2
Good Targets for Fall Application	2
Is your backpack set up for success?	3
Web Site Address	4
Do It right: Mixing order does matter	4
Find us on the Web	4
Phone Numbers	4

Invasive Watch — Black Henbane



Black henbane is a tap-rooted annual or biennial of the nightshade family that reproduces by seed. Leaves are alternate with coarsely toothed to shallowly lobed margins, and are grayish-green in color. Foliage is covered with fine, sticky hairs. Flowers are arranged in a long spike-like inflorescence in the upper leaves with the youngest flower at the tip. Black henbane produces 10,000 to 500,000 small black seeds per plant. The plant has an unpleasant odor at all growth stages, especially when it is crushed.

Black henbane is an invasive weed in pastures, grasslands, and roadsides throughout the United States. The weed is native to Europe and northern Africa and was likely introduced to the United States as a medicinal plant by early colonists in the late 17th century. The name “henbane” is literally translated “hen killer” because when fowl eat its seeds they become paralyzed and die.

Black henbane is poisonous to both livestock and humans. Livestock usually avoid the weed because of its foul odor and bitter taste. All parts of black henbane including leaves, seeds and roots contain alkaloids. Although used as an herbal medicine for centuries, accidental or intentional poisoning in humans may result in hypertension, coma and convulsions.

Source: Techline Invasive Plant News Prairie & Grasslands Edition Fall 2015 (Sponsored by DowAgroSciences, LLC)

Good Targets for Fall Application

Following is a summary of some perennial invasive plants that can be controlled with fall applications. Herbicide options and rates are available at <http://techlinenews.com/management-guide>.

“Herbicide efficacy in fall can be influenced by plant growth stage, soil moisture and canopy cover. If conditions are dry in fall, herbicide application may be ineffective.”

**Dr. Rod Lym,
NDSU**

Weed Species	Comments
Absinth wormwood	Spring or fall regrowth following mowing in mid-summer
Canada thistle	Bud stage and fall
Dalmatian toadflax	Flower or fall
Russian knapweed	Bud stage to late fall
Knapweeds—taprooted	Rosette to fall
Leafy spurge	True flower (best) or fall

Source: TechLine Invasive Plant News Prairie & Grasslands Edition Fall 2015 (Sponsored by DowAgroSciences, LLC)

Is your backpack set up for success?

With their grab-and-go convenience, it's easy to understand why backpack sprayers have become such popular pasture improvement tools. Right out of the box, they're ready to go to work.

But before you bring that box home to the ranch, keep a few considerations in mind. The basic, off-the-shelf model will get the elementary jobs done just fine. But depending on what you want to accomplish, how much you want to spend and how long you want your equipment investment to last, a few upgrades make sense.

Start with seals

Most foliar applications (spraying the leaves) are water-based; water is the carrier. But if you plan to treat woody plants and brush by using low-volume basal or basal cut-stump methods, which use oil-based carriers, you'll be better-served by higher-end seals.

Oil-based carriers eventually will break down standard seals. If you plan to apply herbicides with an oil-based carrier, make sure you buy a sprayer with oil-resistant seals.

Right wand, less waste

As with seals, the standard-issue spray wand and spray tip provide acceptable results. But for low-volume basal and basal cut-stump treatments, upgrading to a low-volume wand provides better durability and product stewardship and can pay for itself over time.

First, a low-volume metal wand (rather than the plastic one that typically comes with the sprayer) is handy for treating multistem plants because it's rigid and makes it much easier to poke through the clump to reach the base of the plant. But the big advantage is that the shutoff is at the tip, rather than at the handle like most basic models.

This provides a crisp cutoff of the spray pattern with little, if any, dripping.

The wand tube holds a surprising amount of spray mix—enough to treat several small trees or stems. With the shutoff at the handle, a lot of spray can drip out as you walk between treatment targets. That's not good stewardship or wise use of resources.

Tips important, too

An adjustable spray pattern is a must when making low-volume basal and basal cut-stump applications. A Spraying Systems 5500 adjustable-cone tip is recommended as it carries an X3 classification, which means it can apply very low spray volumes.

When treating various sized trees or stems, it's important to adjust the spray pattern to better match the size of the target to minimize overspray and wasted product. The more precise the spray pattern the better.

The advent of backpack sprayers has been great for taking weed and brush management into your own hands, especially when it comes to catching small problems before they can become big ones. But with a little more, well-placed investment, results and equipment longevity can increase substantially.

For more information about spray equipment, visit the How-to section in the Video Center at www.RangeAndPasture.com and look for the "Equipment for Low-volume Basal" clip. For upgraded spray wands and other equipment, contact your local specialized spray equipment dealer.



A quality spray wand includes an internal cord from handle to tip for a crisp shut-off and an adjustable nozzle.



**Stark County Weed
Control Board**

We're on the Web!

**[http://tinyurl.com/
stark-weed](http://tinyurl.com/stark-weed)**

1340 W. Villard St.
Dickinson ND 58601-4646

Shop phone: 701-456-7636
Office phone: 701-456-7665
Diane's cell: 701-590-0404
Fax: 701-456-7670

Diane's E-mail:
weed@ndsupernet.com

Kaye's E-mail:
kjessen2@starkcountynod.gov

Office Hours:
Kaye: 8-12, 1-5 Tuesday and
Wednesday
8-11:30 Thursday

Diane: 8-12 Monday - Friday

Distribution Dates—2016

Wednesdays

8:30-11:30; 12:15-2:15

May 18

July 13

June 1

August 3

June 8

August 24

June 15

September 7

June 22

Do it right: Mixing order does matter

If you're spraying pastures yourself, it pays to pay attention to the details.

One of those details is the mixing of the herbicide solution—the sum total of water, herbicide, surfactant and any other additives—that you'll put in the tank and spray.

Do it wrong and you can actually reduce the effectiveness of your treatment. It may not happen every time, but it can happen.

The reason gets into the finer points of chemistry. **Bottom line: You can avoid the problem by simply following the mixing directions on the label.**

For herbicide applications with water (not fertilizer), here's the general procedure:

1. Put into your sprayer about half the water you'll use. Begin agitation.
2. Add the herbicide. Continue agitation.
3. Add additives such as surfactant or drift control agent and deposition aids. Continue agitation.
4. Add the rest of the water and continue agitation.

Don't premix your herbicide with surfactant or other additives. It creates at least potential for a problem. Add them separately according to label directions.

Agitation here means recirculation or vigorous shaking. It's critical.

Most tractor-powered sprayers will have a recirculating pump. You can shake a backpack sprayer. If you're using something in between, find a way to provide agitation. One way is to start with less water in the tank, then add herbicide and additives a little bit at a time while using a garden hose to add water and stir.

For different kinds of mixes, such as the oil-water emulsion, consult the label because mixing directions are different.